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considers the influence of the *Roman de la Rose* on the *Pèlerinage de l'Ame*.¹ He notes the correspondence of *Ame*, vv. 2139–2142 with *Rose*, vv. 4595–4599 and vv. 5616–5617; and *Ame*, v. 7082, with *Rose*, vv. 13225–13226, but overlooks the following :

Roman de la Rose,² vv. 8157–8164 :

Ele est si crueuse et si gloute,
Que tel chose vuet avoir toute,
S'ele en lessoit à chascun prendre,
Qu'el ne la troveroit jà mendre.
Moult est fox qui tel chose esperne,
C'est la chandele en la lanterne ;
Qui mil en i alumeroit,
Jà mains de feu n'i troveroit.

Pèlerinage de l'Ame,³ vv. 3439–3449 :

Commune est a tous Charite
Si com est exemplefie
De la chandoille alumee
La quelle, quant ell est portee
Devant .i. pour esclairer li,
N'est pas doute que ceux aussi
Qui li tiennent societe
N'aient partie en la clarte,
Et mains n'en a mie celui
Pour qui fu alumee ainsi.

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ON AN ACROSTIC IN VILLON.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—Among the several acrostics contained in Villon, one at least has remained either unnoticed or unexplained: I refer to the one contained in the second octave of the *Ballade a s'Amie*, p. 63 (I quote from the last edition of Villon: *Bibliotheca Romanica*, No. 35-36).

Bijvanck (*Specimen d'un Essai Critique*, etc., p. 148) says: "L'acrostiche de la 2e. strophe enfin, ne peut elle aussi se rapporter a Maistre Ythier Marchant" . . . (mentioned by Longnon, *Etude Biograph. sur Fr. Villon*, p. 117).

This hypothesis seems to be "ganz ohne Be-

gründung" (Wurzbach: *Die Werke Fr. Villons*, p. 498, note). Jannet in his edition (*Additions et Corrections*) mentions the acrostic, saying: ". . . le second huitain donne MARTHEOS, sans doute par l'effet du hasard."

Longnon (*Oeuvres Complètes de Fr. Villon*) supposes that the ballad is addressed to a certain Rose (Item, m'amour, ma chiere Rose (LXXX)) and G. Paris (*Fr. Villon*) speaks of Rose as one of Villon's friends. Wurzbach rejects that idea ". . . da der Taufname Rosa im 15. Jahrh. noch nicht vorkommt" . . . auch hiess Villons Geliebte nicht so," and prints accordingly rose (young maiden); the *Biblioth. Romanica* follows the same reading.

The fact that this ballad ". . . se termine tout par R" (LXXXIII) does not prove anything: then, if "rose" is not a proper name the acrostic MARTHEOS is not due to "l'effet du hasard" as Jannet says, but to Villon's desire to name the woman in the case, viz., Marthe.

The two letters OS following the name, do not seem to offer any great objection, as many of Villon's acrostics show one or two additional letters (Villon + E (A sa Mère, A la Grosse Margot); V. + S (A s'Amie); V. + P (Bon Conseil); V. + J (Jargon VII); Delore + DE (a un gentilhomme, etc.).

This information does not add much to our knowledge of the unhappy love affairs of our self-styled "amant martyr," but merely introduces an hitherto unknown MARTHE into the worthy company of Macée, Margot, Isabeau, Catherine . . . and probably many others.

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¹Guillaume de Deguileville, *En Studie i Fransk Litteratur-historia*, Upsala, 1902, p. 137.

²Ed. Francisque Michel, 2 vols., Paris, 1864.

³Ed. J. J. Stürzinger, London (Roxburghe Club), 1895.

¹Wurzbach's statement is not quite correct: Cf. Rose, Roze, Rozine (E. Langlois: *Table des noms propres*, etc.); Renaud's *Galeran de Bretagne* (ca. 1230) in which appears Rose, friend and companion of Frene (4261–4279–6533–. . .), also under the form of Rosain (6654–6979–7801) and Rouse (4269–6682–7722). Rose, cousin of Pepin (*Le Comte de Poitiers* (ca. 1168), v. 434), and also: Rose la biele (*Richard li Biaus* (ca. 1275), v. 4677) . . . etc. The name, it is true to say, was not very common before the XVth century. Surely not as common as "Marie, Madeleine or Marthe."